GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3467
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2000
NON-FUNCTIONING OF MARR SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether most of the Multi Access Rural Radio System at different places of the country are non-operational;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on March 31, 2000, State-wise and U.T. - wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the number of MARR units in the country showing 0-meter reading especially in Maharashtra and telecom district at Yuvatmal as on March 31, 2000;

(e) whether the investments made for rural connectivity is not being used effectively; and

(f) if so, the financial status for maintenance provision system especially at Gram Panchayat level ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a)& (b) Out of 211313 MARR Village Public Telephones commissioned in the country, 41147 Village Public Telephones on MARR system are faulty as on 31.03.2000 and 24284 VPTs are disconnected due to non payment.. Details of faulty VPTs on MARR areas follows .

State	MARR VPTs Commissioned	MARR VPTs Faulty
A&N	146	18
Andhra Pradesh	12399	206
Assam	9293	2629
Bihar	14281	6443
Gujrat	7413	292
Haryana	3634	604
H.P.	2842	642
J&K	2601	489
Karnataka	14692	463
Kerala	32	0
M.P.	25553	7165
Maharshtra	18750	805
Goa	98	4
Orissa	11542	6683
Punjab	6195	192 (Including Chandigarh U.T.-3)
Rajasthan	17703	2685
Tamil Nadu	7200	710
U.P.	41103	7380
West Bengal	12059	2477
Calcutta Telecom Distt	56	12
Arunanchal Pradesh	437	185
Manipur	623	338
Meghalaya	1105	259
Mizoram	522	153
Nagaland	510	107
Tripura	425	175
Sikkim	70	30
Pondicheri	29	1
Total	211313	41147

(c)
1. Testing of VPTs are carried out daily from the exchange. Any VPTs not responding on two consecutive days are being treated as faulty.

2. Testing of MARR links are carried out daily from the Base station .

3. Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low reading is taken as an indication of the system not performing properly and are being especially checked.

4. VPTs holders have been asked to book their fault at telephone exchange/JTO incharge.

5. Repair centres are in the process of being set-up in each circle. 6. AMC is being entered into with supplier of the systems.

7 Monthly/ Weekly performance report (Suggested by NPC) have been implemented.

8. SSA Heads are holding meetings with Villagers to sort out the grievances.

9. Flying squads have been constituted at circle/TCHQ Level. 10. Following new Technologies are being tried in the network for induction:

WLL (Wireless in local loop).C.DOT -TDMA PMP system (C.DOT developed time division multiple access point to multipoint system.) Satellite Based Terminals for remote and inaccessible areas. 11. Unserviceable MARR systems would be replaced, after covering remaining villages with VPTs, progressively. 12. The VPTs disconnected for non payment would be shifted to the new location/ Operators after waiting for payment for 3 months.

(d) In country total 29958 MARR VPTs are showing zero meter reading.In Maharashtra and Telecom. District Yavatmal MARR VPTs showing 0 meter reading are 1193 and 288 respectively.

(e) No Sir, investment made for rural connectivity is being used except ;

1. Some MARR VPTs are under disconnection due to non-payment of bills. Action is being taken to reallocate them.

2. Some MARR VPTs are located in Gram Panchayat offices or Branch Post Office which are kept open for a limited hours.

3. Some MARR VPTs which are faulty.

(f) There are no separate funds allocated for maintenance of MARR Village Public Telephones.These are being maintained from out of the funds allocated for maintenance of exchanges systems.